

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 03863 161223Z

65

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

EB-07 SIL-01 LAB-04 /070 W

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R 161112Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5057

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 3863

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION ISLAMABAD INFO LAHORE FROM KARACHI APRIL 16
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE

KARACHI 1662

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PK

SUBJECT: BHUTTO AND THE OPPOSITION

REF: A) ISLAMABAD 3756; B) KARACHI 1542

1. CONSULATE GENERAL OFFICERS HAVE PICKED UP LITTLE
LOCAL REACTION TO THE APRIL 13 ARREST OF MORE NAP/
NDP FIGURES. A FEW OBSERVERS SEE THE CONTINUING RE-
PRESSION OF THE NAP/NDP FIGURES AS AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN
TACTIC DESIGNED TO IMPRESS CONSERVATIVE-NATIONALIST
ELEMENTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE PUNJAB, THAT BHUTTO IS
A STRONG AND SINCERE DEFENDER OF THE INTEGRITY AND
IDEOLOGY OF PAKISTAN.

2. SOME OF THE DEFENDANTS SEEM POORLY CAST AS PUTATIVE
THREATS TO PAKISIAN. THE ARREST OF PROMINENT KARACHI
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 03863 161223Z

BARRISTER AND FORMER SIND NAP PRESIDENT AZIZULLAH

SHEIKH ON CHARGES OF ABETTING INSURECTION AND TREASON WILL STRIKE HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE LOCAL LEGAL FRATERNITY AS IMPLAUSIBLE. THE KARACHI BAR ASSOCIATION ON APRIL 15 EXPRESSED ITS CONCERN OVER THE DETENTION OF THE SCHOLARLY, POLITICALLY INACTIVE SHEIKH.

3. PERHAPS BHUTTO'S HARDER LINE TOWARD THE LEFT OPPOSITION SHOULD HAVE BEEN ANTICIPATED. ADDRESSING THE QUETTA PPP CONVENTION APRIL 8, BHUTTO REPORTEDLY DENOUNCED THE NDP AS THE SUCCESSOR TO THE NAP. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, HE HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY USED THIS TACTIC, ONE FAVORED BY LEFTIST PPP SPEAKERS. YET, EVEN AFTER THE APRIL 13 ROUNDUP OF MORE NAP/NDP FIGURES, BHUTTO SEEMS TO BE PURSUING THE "TWO-NAP" POLICY FIRST PROMULGATED IN PESHAWAR. SUCH PROMINENT NAP/NDP FIGURES AS PRINCE AGHA ABDUL KARIM, BALUCHISTAN MPA AND BROTHER OF THE GOVERNOR; BALUCHISTAN MNA JENNIFER MUSA; AND MNA GHULAM FARUQUE OF THE NWFP (AND KARACHI) REMAIN UNMOLESTED. BHUTTO'S FAILURE TO ARREST NDP GOVERNOR SHERBAZ MAZARI, NEVER A NAP ADHERENT, IS CURIOUS. PERHAPS BHUTTO DOES NOT CONSIDER HIM A SERIOUS OPPONENT; PERHAPS, AS SOME OPPOSITION FIGURES PRIVATELY ASSERT, THERE IS A TACIT UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO. FORMER NAP LEADERS WHO HAVE SEEN THE LIGHT -- MOHAMMAD KHAN BAROZAI, ADVISOR TO THE BALUCHISTAN GOVERNOR, COMES TO MIND -- MAY ENJOY BRIGHT POLITICAL PROSPECTS INDEED.

4. IT IS APPARENT THAT BHUTTO IS BRINGING HEAVY PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THE POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT AKBAR KHAN BUGTI, WHO HAS NOT PUBLICLY INVOLVED HIMSELF IN POLITICS SINCE GREETING GHULAM MUSTAFA KHAR AS A "FELLOW TRAITOR" LAST NOVEMBER. AT THE KHUZDAR PPP CONVENTION APRIL 1, BHUTTO PUBLICLY RECALLED THE BAZARRE 1973 INCIDENT IN WHICH BUGTI ORDERED A TRIBAL RAIDING PARTY (LASHKAR) TO INTERRUPT THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BALUCHISTAN ASSEMBLY. THREE OF BUGTI'S SOMETIME POLITICAL LIEUTENANTS -- THE TWO DOMKI BROTHERS AND NABI BUKHSH KHOSO -- ANNOUNCED THEIR ADHERSION TO THE PPP WHILE BHUTTO TOURED BALUCHISTAN (REF B). LEADERS

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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 03863 161223Z

OF FOUR OF THE LARGEST BUGTI TRIBAL SUB-GROUPS -- NOTANIS, KALPARS, MASORIS, AND SHAOZAI -- HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY PROCLAIMED THEIR LOYALTY TO THE PPP. BUGTI'S SON JAMIL WAS ARRESTED APRIL 14 ON CHARGES OF INVOLVEMENT IN MURDER AND RIOTING. FINALLY, THE GOVERNMENT HAS INSTITUTED NUMEROUS CASES CHALLENGING BUGTI'S OWNERSHIP OF LAND IN EXCESS OF THE LEGAL ACREAGE CIELINGS. ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, AKBAR KHAN BUGTI MAY SOON HAVE

TO DECIDE BETWEEN JOINING THE PPP OR JOINING HIS
YOUNGER BROTHER, NAP LOYALIST AHMED NAWAZ BUGTI,
IN SOME FORM OF DETENTION. THE PRIMARY POLITICAL
BENEFICIARIES OF THE PRESSURE ON THE BUGTIS, INCI-
DENTALLY, ARE THE ALMOST AS NUMERIUS JALNALIS.

5. AS INDICATED IN REF A, BHUTTO'S PROPENSITY FOR
"OVERKILL" SEEMS TO HAVE COME THE THE FORE IN HIS USE
OF BLATANT INDUCEMENTS AND STRONGARM TACTS TO WIN OVER
OR SILENCE CRITICS AND OPPONENTS, AND NOT ONLY IN ROUGH
AND READY BALUCHISTAN. IN KARACHI, FOR EXAMPLE, LEADE
ING PARSİ BUSINESSMEN HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN APPROACHED
BY HIGH-RANKING PPP FIGURES REQUESTING THAT THESE COM-
MERCIAL MAGNATES PUBLICLY ANNOUNCE THEIR ADHERENCE TO
THE RULING PARTY. NO CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE APPARENTLY
BEEN SOLICITED YET. THE CONTINUED DETENTION OF FORMER
SHIPPING MAGNATE, GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, AND CAUSTIC
CLOSED-DOOR BHUTTO CRITIC ARDESHIR COWASJEE, A FIRST-
RANK PARSİ FIGURE, MAY BE INTENDED AS AN INSTRUCTIVE
EXAMPLE. LABOR LEADERS HAVE SIMILARLY BEEN ASKED TO
DEFINE THEIR POLITICAL ALLEGIANCE, ACCORDING TO LOCAL
SOURCES. IN SUM, AS THE CONSULATE GENERAL IN
LAHORE COMMENTED, "NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL SMART
MEN TO COME TO THE AID OF THE PARTY." WE WOULD ONLY
ADD "...OR ELSE."

MOORE

UNQUOTE BYROADE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPPOSITION PARTIES, PARTY LEADERS, ARRESTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ISLAMA03863
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760145-0826
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760454/aaaabtsn.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ISLAMABAD 3756, 76 KARACHI 1542
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <29 SEP 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BHUTTO AND THE OPPOSITION
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PK, (BHUTTO, ALI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006